

April 1, 2016

Mr. Malcolm Augustine  
WMATA Board of Directors  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 5th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Support of the Greenbelt Metro Station Hiker/Biker Trail Project

Dear Mr. Augustine:

The City of Greenbelt is extremely pleased to welcome residents from our new residential community, Greenbelt Station. This new residential community is located within a half mile of the Greenbelt Metro station, separated by a wooded area owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). For the past several years, the City has worked with WMATA staff and the developers of this project to provide a direct pedestrian and bicycle trail connection for Metro users between the station and the neighborhood.

As early as fall 2014, the City had conversations with Mr. Patrick Schmitt, WMATA Director, Office of Parking, regarding the process steps required to design and implement the trail. Based on the direction received from Mr. Schmitt and other WMATA staff, the City had pursued the undertaking of surveys, the development of engineered trail plans, and public input process to serve as the jurisdictional sponsor of the trail. From there it was our understanding that WMATA would work with the City to prepare the legal mechanisms for maintaining the trail in the future given the potential development scenarios of the area immediately surrounding the station.

As the trail sponsor, this January the City submitted a connection request letter and supporting documents to the Office of Real Estate and Station Planning to begin the project review process with WMATA. Subsequently, we were informed that WMATA will not proceed with a review and approval of this project until after the FBI Headquarters consolidation and relocation decision has been made by the General Services Administration. The City understands that should Greenbelt be selected as the new FBI site, the area immediately surrounding the station will be redeveloped to accommodate this facility and private mixed-use development and that these efforts impact construction of the previously discussed trail. The City feels strongly that providing a direct and convenient connection between the Greenbelt Metro Station and the existing Greenbelt Station South Core neighborhood is vitally important.

Therefore, the City requests that WMATA work with us to prevent further delay in connecting the South Core neighborhood to the station and recommends the following actions:

- That WMATA's Office of Real Estate and Station Planning initiate review of the submitted trail connection plan so that in the event Greenbelt is not selected as the FBI's relocated headquarters site, the project will be further along the review and approval process and ready for immediate implementation.

- That WMATA Bus service be extended to the South Core neighborhood as soon as possible to serve as a direct transit connection for Greenbelt's residents that are currently not served by a nearby Metro bus stop location.

The City Council wishes to highlight the critical connection opportunity between our newest neighborhood and the Greenbelt Metro Station. The Council requests your assistance in expediting the review of this project and your support in approving the use of Metro owned property for the trail should Greenbelt Station not be selected as the FBI Headquarters relocation site.

Sincerely,

Emmett V. Jordan  
Mayor, City of Greenbelt

CC: WMATA Board of Directors  
Paul J. Wiedefeld, WMATA General Manager and Chief Executive Officer  
City Council  
Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager  
Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Jessica Bellah, Community Planner